



# MASTER SERIOUS

## At his STUDIES,



**B**E attentive to every event which occurs, and to all the objects which surround you. Suffer nothing to escape your notice. The minutest substance, or the most trivial incident may furnish important knowledge, or be applied to some useful purpose.

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
*MASTER PLAYFUL,*  
AND  
MASTER SERIOUS.

SHEWING

How the former became Rich and Great, by following the Advice, and imitating the good Manners of the latter.

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CHILDREN'S BOOK  
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# THE HISTORY

OF

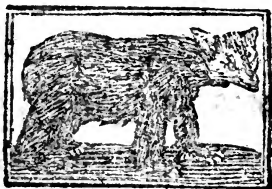
## MASTER PLAYFUL, &c.

**O**UR hero was a little boy, who was generally called wild, and some improperly termed him unlucky, though when you read this little book, you will find he was rather lucky; and he was not of a naughty disposition I assure you.

Little Billy, however, was rather too full of his sports, though he took care that these should never be wicked,

## 8 The History of Master Playful,

ed. " For, says he, it would be better even to be as rude as the bear



which was shown at the fair a few days ago, though that is not to be commended, than like the naughty bird of prey that we saw at the same place, which they called the vulture, to be always in mischief. I cannot truly say that I am as grave as Master Wisely, nor as sedate as Miss Thoughtful;



Thoughtful; but then I think I shall not tell a falsity when I observe, that I am not so disobedient as Master Wilful, nor so wicked as his wild companion."

It happened once, however, that Master Playful, not attending to his book so much as he ought to have done, received both rebuke and correction from his Schoolmaster, who told him, that, with all his sharpness, he was a mere goose at his learning;



10 The History of Master Playful,  
an observation which afterwards had  
took an effect on his conduct, by  
which it appeared to have left a deep  
impression on his infant mind.

He knew that he was possessed of  
genius, which made him rather im-  
patient of reproach; but walking  
into the fields the same evening, he  
observed an ox, a beast whose pa-



ience has always been remarkable  
"Why

and Master Serious.      22

“Why, said he, should that brute creature excel me in any good quality; I will endeavour to lay aside impatience, and to rule my own temper.”

Master Playful certainly meant to do as he had said; but a little of that disposition called wild, or thoughtless (though it was not wicked) still prevailed in his composition. After all these fine resolutions, seeing a boy who had left his jug which



112 The History of Master Playful,  
should have been filled at a well,  
while he went to gape at other  
things, our hero put a sieve in its  
room, which you may be sure the  
other could not fill by any means.  
However, having for some time di-  
verted himself at the other's expence,  
he restored the jug, applauding him-  
self for his own supposed ingenuity.

But just at this time Master Za-  
chariah Serious happened to meet  
with him, who could not help observ-  
ing on the impropriety of his beha-  
viour. "I thought you had known  
better, cried he, than to behave thus.  
It is quite naughty to impose on any  
body, and besides there is no wit in  
deceiving a simpleton. The tricks  
of

of wild children at best are silly, and are always equalled, if not exceeded, by those of the raven that hops yon-



der, and plays a hundred anticks, pecking at strangers, hiding what he can get, and other such mischievous tricks. Do you think it an honour to be like him?"

These words of Master Zachariah Serious were retained in the memory of Master Playful, who, from that time,

14 The History of Master Playful,  
time, though he was as lively as ever,  
took particular care never to do an  
action that might be even thought  
unlucky. This alteration in him  
pleased every body; his Papa and  
Mamma loved him better than ever,  
and he became almost the darling of  
all the acquaintance.

“What is become of your un-  
lucky disposition, said one of his  
schoolfellows?” “It is buried in  
this urn



which

which holds my follies. I hope the same may happen to yours, answered Master Playful." And they never spoke any more to him on the subject.

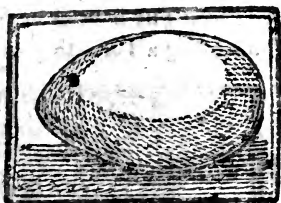
When some silly boys were following and hooting a Turk, they expected



our hero to join them, but he absolutely refused, asking them what could make them behave so?

## 6 The History of Master Playful,

“It is so difficult,” said one, who knew him, to reclaim a wild, or an unlucky boy, that I wonder how it could be done!” “It is difficult, answered Master Playful, to set an egg



upright on the little end, but I will shew you how it can be done.” So he gently broke the shell, and it stood directly without spilling the contents, as he had read how it was to be done.

It



and Master Serious. 17

It was in this manner that Master Playful went on after, (what may be allowed to call his conversation) in shewing at once his wit and disposition to be good. In the mean time, Master Serious was his constant companion, the gravity of the one tempering the merry disposition of the other.

And these two young Masters becoming inseparable friends, used to go together to see all the fine shows, among which Master Serious took



Master



Master Playful to view some paintings, where was the picture of the Queen, and also that of Xerxes, King of Persia; when the former observed on the different dispositions of the two crowned heads, the one being a headstrong tyrant of the East, the other a British queen, like her husband happy in the blessing of her subjects.

After



After this, a griffin was exhibited (that is the representation of one) but Master Serious properly observed, that there was not really any such thing in nature, while Master Playful seemed rather diverted with viewing the apparent double form of the animal.

He admired the eagle also, as a wonderful princely looking bird.

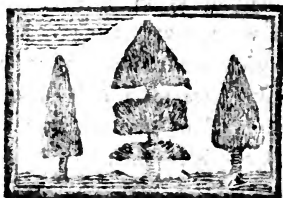
Master



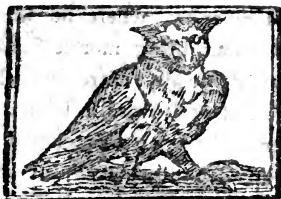
Master Serious, however, reminded him, that this bird was as rapacious as the vulture, and was but the tyrant of the feathered race.

From the time that Master Playful became acquainted with Master Serious, he improved in learning and good manners, and every thing went well with him. His friends sent him

to the University, where he was studious without being morose, and was not carried into any extremes; always observing, that it would be but silly to attempt at once changing a glaring tulip into a yew-tree; or to me-



transform a tom-tit, or a lark, into an owl.



His sentiments in this and other matters were always approved. Master Playful went into a reputable profession, became a rich man, and was the boast of his friends, and the comfort of his parents.

Thus he was one instance of a thoughtless boy becoming a fine man, but it was because at the worst he was never wicked, and had the sense  
to

to see his childish errors before it was too late to alter them.

If any of my young readers are inclined to trifling, it is to be hoped they will follow his example of amendment.

F I N I S.

